

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1014

To require Federal land managers to support, and to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with, designated gateway communities, to improve the ability of gateway communities to participate in Federal land management planning conducted by the Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior, and to respond to the impacts of the public use of the Federal lands administered by these agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH (for himself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MCINNIS, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. CANNON, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. OTTER, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require Federal land managers to support, and to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with, designated gateway communities, to improve the ability of gateway communities to participate in Federal land management planning conducted by the Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior, and to respond to the impacts of the public use of the Federal lands administered by these agencies, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Gateway Communities
5 Cooperation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FEDERAL**
7 **LAND MANAGERS AND GATEWAY COMMU-**
8 **NITIES TO SUPPORT COMPATIBLE LAND**
9 **MANAGEMENT OF BOTH FEDERAL AND ADJA-**
10 **CENT LANDS.**

11 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

12 (1) Communities that are adjacent to or near
13 Federal lands, including units of the National Park
14 System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge Sys-
15 tem, units of the National Forest System, and lands
16 administered by the Bureau of Land Management,
17 are vitally impacted by the management and public
18 use of these Federal lands.

19 (2) These communities, commonly known as
20 gateway communities, fulfill an integral part in the
21 mission of the Federal lands by providing necessary
22 services, such as schools, roads, search and rescue,
23 emergency, medical, provisioning, logistical support,
24 living quarters, and drinking water and sanitary sys-

1 tems, for both visitors to the Federal lands and em-
2 ployees of Federal land management agencies.

3 (3) Provision of these vital services by gateway
4 communities is an essential ingredient for a mean-
5 ingful and enjoyable experience by visitors to the
6 Federal lands because Federal land management
7 agencies are unable to provide, or are prevented
8 from providing, these services.

9 (4) Gateway communities serve as an entry
10 point for persons who visit the Federal lands and
11 are ideal for establishment of visitor services, includ-
12 ing lodging, food service, fuel and auto repairs,
13 emergency services, and visitor information.

14 (5) Development in these gateway communities
15 affect the management and protection of these Fed-
16 eral lands, depending on the extent to which advance
17 planning for the local development is coordinated be-
18 tween the communities and Federal land managers.

19 (6) The planning and management decisions of
20 Federal land managers can have unintended con-
21 sequences for gateway communities and the Federal
22 lands, when the decisions are not adequately commu-
23 nicated to, or coordinated with, the elected officials
24 and residents of gateway communities.

1 (7) Experts in land management planning are
2 available to Federal land managers, but persons with
3 technical planning skills are often not readily avail-
4 able to gateway communities, particularly small
5 gateway communities.

6 (8) Gateway communities are often affected by
7 the policies and actions of several Federal land agen-
8 cies and both the communities and the agencies
9 would benefit from greater interagency coordination
10 of those policies and actions.

11 (9) Persuading gateway communities to make
12 decisions and undertake actions in their communities
13 that would also be in the best interest of the Federal
14 lands is most likely to occur when such decision-
15 making and actions are built upon a foundation of
16 cooperation and coordination.

17 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to
18 require Federal land managers to communicate, coordi-
19 nate, and cooperate with gateway communities in order
20 to—

21 (1) improve the relationships among Federal
22 land managers, elected officials, and residents of
23 gateway communities;

24 (2) enhance the facilities and services in gate-
25 way communities available to visitors to federal

1 lands when compatible with the management of
2 these lands, including the availability of historical
3 and cultural resources; and

4 (3) result in better local land use planning and
5 decisions by Federal land managers.

6 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) GATEWAY COMMUNITY.—The term “gate-
8 way community” means a county, city, town, village,
9 or other subdivision of a State, or a federally recog-
10 nized American Indian tribe or Alaska Native vil-
11 lage, that—

12 (A) is incorporated or recognized in a
13 county or regional land use plan or within tribal
14 jurisdictional boundaries; and

15 (B) a Federal land manager (or the head
16 of the tourism office for the State) determines
17 is significantly affected economically, socially,
18 or environmentally by planning and manage-
19 ment decisions regarding Federal lands admin-
20 istered by that Federal land manager.

21 (2) FEDERAL LAND AGENCIES.—The term
22 “Federal land agencies” means the National Park
23 Service, United States Forest Service, United States
24 Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land
25 Management.

1 (3) FEDERAL LAND MANAGER.—The term
2 “Federal land manager” means—

3 (A) the superintendent of a unit of the Na-
4 tional Park System;

5 (B) the manager of a national wildlife ref-
6 uge;

7 (C) the field office manager of a Bureau of
8 Land Management area; or

9 (D) the supervisor of a unit of the Na-
10 tional Forest System.

11 (d) PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL PLANNING AND
12 LAND USE.—

13 (1) PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING.—The Fed-
14 eral land agencies shall provide for meaningful pub-
15 lic involvement at the earliest possible time by elect-
16 ed and appointed officials of governments of local
17 gateway communities in the development of land use
18 plans, programs, land use regulations, land use deci-
19 sions, transportation plans, general management
20 plans, and any other plans, decisions, projects, or
21 policies for Federal public lands under the jurisdic-
22 tion of these agencies that will have a significant im-
23 pact on these gateway communities. To facilitate
24 such involvement, the Federal land agencies shall
25 provide these officials, at the earliest possible time,

1 with a summary in nontechnical language of the as-
2 sumptions, purposes, goals, and objectives of such a
3 plan, decision, project, or policy and a description of
4 any anticipated significant impact of the plan, deci-
5 sion, project, or policy on gateway communities.

6 (2) EARLY NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECISIONS.—

7 To the extent practicable, the Federal land agencies
8 shall provide local gateway communities with early
9 public notice of proposed decisions of these agencies
10 that may have a significant impact on gateway com-
11 munities.

12 (3) TRAINING SESSIONS.—The Federal land

13 agencies shall offer training sessions for elected and
14 appointed officials of gateway communities at which
15 such officials can obtain a better understanding of—

16 (A) agency planning processes; and

17 (B) the methods by which they can partici-
18 pate most meaningfully in the development of
19 the agency plans, decisions, and policies re-
20 ferred to in paragraph (1).

21 (4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—At the request of

22 the government of a gateway community, a Federal
23 land agency shall assign, to the extent practicable,
24 an agency employee or contractor to work with the
25 community to develop data and analysis relevant to

1 the preparation of agency plans, decisions, and poli-
2 cies referred to in paragraph (1).

3 (5) REVIEW OF FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT
4 PLANNING.—At the request of a gateway commu-
5 nity, and to the extent practicable, a Federal land
6 manager shall assist the gateway community to con-
7 duct a review of land use, management, or transpor-
8 tation plans of the Federal land manager that are
9 likely to affect the gateway community.

10 (6) COORDINATION OF LAND USE.—To the ex-
11 tent consistent with the laws governing the adminis-
12 tration of the Federal public lands, a Federal land
13 manager may enter into a cooperative agreement
14 with a gateway community to provide for coordina-
15 tion between—

16 (A) the land use inventory, planning, and
17 management activities for the Federal lands ad-
18 ministered by the Federal land manager; and

19 (B) the land use planning and manage-
20 ment activities of other Federal agencies, agen-
21 cies of the State in which the Federal lands are
22 located, and local and tribal governments in the
23 vicinity of the Federal lands.

24 (7) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION AND COORDI-
25 NATION.—To the extent practicable, when the plans

1 and activities of two or more Federal land agencies
2 are anticipated to have a significant impact on a
3 gateway community, the Federal land agencies in-
4 volved shall consolidate and coordinate their plans
5 and planning processes to facilitate the participation
6 of the gateway community in the planning processes.

7 (8) TREATMENT AS COOPERATING AGENCIES.—

8 When a proposed action is determined to require the
9 preparation of an environmental impact statement,
10 the Federal land agencies shall, as soon as prac-
11 ticable, but not later than the scoping process, ac-
12 tively solicit the participation of gateway commu-
13 nities as cooperating agencies under the National
14 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321
15 et seq.).

16 (e) GRANTS TO ASSIST GATEWAY COMMUNITIES.—

17 (1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED; PURPOSES.—A Fed-
18 eral land manager may make grants to an eligible
19 gateway community to enable the gateway commu-
20 nity—

21 (A) to participate in Federal land planning
22 or management processes;

23 (B) to obtain professional land use or
24 transportation planning assistance necessary as
25 a result of Federal action;

1 (C) to address and resolve public infra-
2 structure impacts that are identified through
3 these processes as a likely result of the Federal
4 land management decisions and for which suffi-
5 cient funds are not otherwise available; and

6 (D) to provide public information and in-
7 terpretive services about the Federal lands ad-
8 ministered by the Federal land manager and
9 about the gateway community.

10 (2) ELIGIBLE GATEWAY COMMUNITIES.—To be
11 eligible for a grant under this subsection, a gateway
12 community may not have a population in excess of
13 10,000 persons.

14 (f) FUNDING SOURCES.—

15 (1) GENERAL AGENCY FUNDS.—A Federal land
16 agency may use amounts available for the general
17 operation of the agency to provide funds to Federal
18 land managers of that agency to make grants under
19 subsection (e).

20 (2) OTHER PLANNING OR PROJECT DEVELOP-
21 MENT FUNDS.—Funds available to a Federal land
22 manager for planning, construction, or project devel-
23 opment may also be used to fund programs under
24 subsection (d) and make grants under subsection
25 (e).

1 (3) COMBINATION OF FUNDS.—Federal land
2 managers from different Federal land agencies may
3 combine financial resources to make grants under
4 subsection (e).

5 (g) PLACEMENT OF FACILITIES.—Whenever plan-
6 ning new or expanded facilities, including administrative,
7 operational, housing, or visitor information facilities for
8 Federal lands administered by a Federal land manage-
9 ment agency, the Federal land management agency shall
10 give priority consideration, to the extent practicable, to lo-
11 cating the facilities in a gateway community.

○